

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/786,472

Examiner

Rodney H. Bonck

Applicant(s)

ICHIHARA ET AL.

Art Unit

3681

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to the amendment and Terminal Disclaimer filed October 16, 2006.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-6, 13 and 15-17.
3. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date _____.
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date _____.
7. ☐ Examiner's Amendment/Comment.
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____.

The following action is in response to the amendment and Terminal Disclaimer received October 16, 2006.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 1-6, 13, and 15-17 are allowed.

Reasons for Allowance

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

The prior art of record fails to show or render obvious a one-way clutch unit having first and second one-way clutches as defined in claim 1, wherein the first inner ring of the first one-way clutch contacts the rotating shaft and an annular recess is provided in an inner periphery of the first inner ring of the first one-way clutch.

The closest prior art is believed to be Iwasa et al.(US 2003/0098624 A1), which shows two one-way clutches. Neither of the one-way clutches has a recess on the inner periphery of its inner ring. Single one-way clutches with a recess on the inner periphery of an inner ring are known, as shown by either Fujiwara(US 2003/0000792 A1) or Ichihara et al.(US 2003/0085091 A1), but there is no suggestion to modify Iwasa et al. to provide a recess on either one-way clutch.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably

accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Response to Amendment

Since claims 7 and 12 have been canceled, the duplicate claim problem between those claims is eliminated. Claim 16 has been amended to add "to provide strength against radial loads". Thus claim 16 is no longer a duplicate of claim 15.

The nonstatutory double patenting rejection of claims 1-6, 13, and 15-17 is withdrawn in view of the approved Terminal Disclaimer filed October 16, 2006.

Claim 15 has been amended to eliminate the reference character in the claim. Accordingly, the objection to claim 15 is withdrawn.

After reconsideration, the rejection of claims 15 and 16 under 35 USC 112, 2nd paragraph, is withdrawn. Recitation that the differing diameters are "for providing sufficient thickness" is now believed merely to be broad, not indefinite. Any thickness can be considered "sufficient". These claims are allowable because they depend from and include the limitations of claim 1.

The claims rejected under 35 USC 103(a) in the previous Office action have been canceled. Therefore, the rejections under 35 USC 103(a) are withdrawn.

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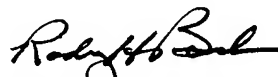
Conclusion

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. The Fujiwara(US 2003/0000792 A1) and Ichihara et al.(US 2003/0085091 A1) publications are cited for their showing of recessed inner rings.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Rodney H. Bonck whose telephone number is (571) 272-7089. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday 7:00AM - 3:30PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Charles A. Marmor can be reached on (571) 272-7095. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.



Rodney H. Bonck
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 3681

rhb
November 14, 2006